(a) when was the gauge conversion work of Morbi-Vankaner in Gujarat completed;

(b) the number of metre gauge trains that were available for the people of Morbi prior to gauge conversion; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the passengers from Morbi town are facing great difficulties due to non-availability of direct broad gauge train services from Morbi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The gauge conversion of Morbi-Wankaner section was completed on 25.07.2001.

(b) and (c) Prior to gauge conversion of Morbi and Wankaner, four pairs of Rail Bus services were running on the section. At present, six pairs of Diesel Multiple Unit services are running in the section, which is considered sufficient for the present level of traffic.

Gauge conversion work between Patan-Mehsana

3388. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the gauge conversion work between Patan-Mehsana in North Gujarat completed;

(b) the number of metre gauge trains running between Patan-Ahmedabad prior to gauge conversion; and

(c) the situation at present regarding trains services between Patan-Mehsana and Patan-Ahmedabad in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The gauge conversion of Patan- Mehasana section was completed and commissioned on 14.02.2009.

(b) Prior to gauge conversion of Ahemedabad- Mehasana- Patan metre gauge section, 6 pairs of trains were running on the section.

(c) At present, 5 pairs of trains are running on newly converted section of Mehasana-Patan and one pair is running between Patan- Ahmedabad.

Dedicated freight corridor

3389. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to create capacity and improve quality of freight service, dedicated freight corridor projects are under implementation by Railways;

(b) if so, the targets set and achievements made, so far; and

(c) in what manner the slippages are being addressed by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Dedicated Freight Corridor Project comprising the Eastern Corridor (Ludhiana-Dankuni) and the

Western Corridor (Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal to Tughlakabad/ Dadri) have been sanctioned by the Government and is under implementation.

(b) Final Location Survey for the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and for Ludhiana-Sonnagar Section of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor has been completed. Notification for Land Acquisition under Section 20A of Railway (Amendment) Act, 2008 have been issued for about 2400 Kilometers for both the corridors. First construction contract for 105 Kilometers in Eastern Corridor and for 54 major and important bridges on Western Corridor has also been awarded.

Negotiation for funding with World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are in progress. The project is targeted to be completed by 2016-17, subject to availability of funds and timely availability of land.

(c) The Ministry of Railways is trying their best for early finalisation of the main loan agreements with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The land acquisition process is also being expedited for early implementation of the project. The project is of high priority and is being monitored intensively.

Problems due to dislocation of under construction steel plants

†3390. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the under construction domestic steel plants have resolved the problem of dislocation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is aware of those steel plants that are causing severe pollution in the surrounding areas, where production has started;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to make the environment pollution free;

(e) whether domestic steel companies have played some important role in providing employment to unemployed youth of the surrounding villages; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (f) The information is being collected from Ministry of Environment and Forest, the respective State Governments and major steel investors and will be laid on the table of the House.

Capacity expansion of steel plants

3391. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

SHRI N. K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.